



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

José de Jesus Rivera

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 24, 2000

For Information Contact Public Affairs
(602) 514-7561

CONVICTIONS FOR SCOTTSDALE JEWELRY STORE ROBBERIES

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- CAESAR DEMETRIUS NICKSON, 39, of Thousand Oaks, CA, was found guilty on January 20, 2000, after a 3 day jury trial, of Robbery, Use of a Firearm in a Crime of Violence, and Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property.

At trial, it was established that on September 18, 1997, the defendant and **THOMAS DIMITRIC LLOYD** robbed Ben Bridge Jewelers, located at Scottsdale Fashion Square, 7014 E. Camelback Road, in Scottsdale, Arizona. The defendants used and carried handguns during the jewelry store robbery and then transported the stolen goods across state lines, to California.

Thomas Dimitric Lloyd, 30, of Los Angeles, previously pleaded guilty to 3 Robberies and one count of Using a Firearm During a Crime of Violence. He admitted to robbing Ben Bridge Jewelers, with Nickson, on September 18, 1997. Lloyd also admitted that on January 6, 1998, he robbed the Helzberg Diamond Jewelry store located at Scottsdale Fashion Square, 7014 E. Camelback Road in, Scottsdale, AZ, with two female co-defendants, Janice High and Mei Ling Harper. On February 2, 1998, Lloyd, along with Janice High, robbed Hamra Jewelers at 10050 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ. Lloyd admitted to using a handgun in each of the robberies.

Janice High, 21, of Los Angeles, CA, is in Texas pending additional robbery charges. After the outcome of those proceedings, she will be transferred to Arizona for prosecution.

Mei Ling Harper previously pleaded guilty to the one robbery she was indicted on and is pending sentencing.

The four defendants are currently in custody.

A conviction for interfering with interstate commerce by robbery or extortion carries a maximum penalty of 20 years, \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for committing a crime of violence while using or carrying a firearm carries a maximum penalty of 5 years, \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property carries a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

The investigation that led to the successful prosecution in this case was conducted by the Scottsdale Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The prosecution was handled by Michael W. Kemp, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-98-685
RELEASE NUMBER: 2000-009

#